

Providence of God Chapter 16

LBC 1689—God the good Creator of all things, in his infinite power and wisdom doth uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all creatures and things, from the greatest even to the least, by his most wise and holy providence, to the end for the which they were created, according unto his infallible foreknowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of his own will; to the praise of the glory of his wisdom, power, justice, infinite goodness, and mercy. Although in relation to the foreknowledge and decree of God, the first cause, all things come to pass immutably and infallibly; so that there is not anything befalls any by chance, or without his providence; yet by the same providence he ordereth them to fall out according to the nature of second causes, either necessarily, freely, or contingently.

1. God's Providence Over
 - a. The Entire U_____

Psalm 103:19

Ephesians 1:11

Charles Spurgeon has said, "I believe that every particle of dust that dances in the sunbeam does not move an atom more or less than God wishes - that every particle of spray that dashes against the steamboat has its orbit, as well as the sun in the heavens - that the chaff from the hand of the winnower is steered as the stars in their courses. The creeping of an aphid over the rosebud is as much fixed as the march of the devastating pestilence - the fall of . . . leaves from a poplar is as fully ordained as the tumbling of an avalanche."

Psalm 115:1-2

- b. The N_____

Psalm 47:7-9

Daniel 2:20-21

Daniel 4:34-35

- c. The C_____

Psalm 135:6-7

Matthew 5:45

Matthew 6:25-30

Psalm 104:21-30

Jonathan Edwards says, “God is the sovereign ruler of the world! He governs the sun, moon, and stars. He governs even the motes of dust which fly in the air. Not a hair of our heads falls to the ground without our heavenly Father. God also governs the brute creatures. By His providence, He orders, according to His own decrees, all events concerning those creatures. And rational creatures are subject to the His government. All their actions, and all events relating to them, being ordered by superior providence, according to absolute decrees, so that no event that relates to them ever happens without the disposal of God, according to His own decrees. God exercises the most sovereign dominion over the earth. He reigns and does all things according to His own will, ordering all events as seems good to Himself. God is the sovereign ruler of the world!

1 Kings 17:4-6

d. Seemingly R_____ Acts

Proverbs 16:33

Jonah 1:7

Matthew 10:29

2. Objections:

a. It Destroys F_____ Will

Libertarian Freedom—

Compatible Freedom—

Genesis 20:1-6

Ezra 1:1-3

Ezra 7:27

Psalms 105:10

Proverbs 21:1

f. This Will Kill P_____

Job 42:7-9

g. Couldn't God Have Stopped Evil From Entering the World

h. It Makes God the Author of E_____

LBC (1689)—4. The almighty power, unsearchable wisdom, and infinite goodness of God, so far manifest themselves in his providence, that his determinate counsel extendeth itself even to the

first fall, and all other sinful actions both of angels and men; and that not by a bare permission, which also he most wisely and powerfully boundeth, and otherwise ordereth and governeth, in a manifold dispensation to his most holy ends; yet so, as the sinfulness of their acts proceedeth only from the creatures, and not from God, who, being most holy and righteous, neither is nor can be the author or approver of sin.

1. God Loves Righteousness and Hates Rebellion

James 1:13-15

Psalm 11:7

Psalm 5:4-6

Habakkuk 1:13

1 John 1:5

2. God Exercises Control Over _____ Evil While Not Having a Hand In Evil

2 Samuel 24:1

1 Chronicles 21:1

2 Samuel 24:10

2 Thessalonians 2:8-12

Jonathan Edwards answers, "If by 'the author of sin,' be meant the sinner, the agent, or the actor of sin, or the *doer* of a wicked thing . . . it would be a reproach and blasphemy, to suppose God to be the author of sin. In this sense, I utterly deny God to be the author of sin." But, he argues, willing that sin exist in the world is not the same as sinning. God does not commit sin in willing that there be sin. God has established a world in which sin will indeed necessarily come to pass by God's permission, but not by his "positive agency."

God is, Edwards says, "the permitter . . . of sin; and at the same time, a disposer of the state of events, in such a manner, for wise, holy and most excellent ends and purposes, that sin, if it be permitted . . . will most certainly and infallibly follow." . . . If the sun were the proper cause of cold and darkness," he says, "it would be the fountain of these things, as it is the fountain of light and heat: and then something might be argued from the nature of cold and darkness, to a likeness of nature in the sun." In other words, "sin is not the fruit of any positive agency or influence of the most High, but on the contrary, arises from the withholding of his action and energy, and under certain circumstances, necessarily follows on the want of his influence."

Job 1:12-22

Edwards says, "God may hate a thing as it is in itself, and considered simply as evil, and yet . . . it may be his will it should come to pass, considering all consequences. . . . God doesn't will sin as sin or for the sake of anything evil; though it be his pleasure so to order things, that he permitting, sin will come to pass; for the sake of the great good that by his disposal shall be the consequence. His willing to order things so that evil should come to pass, for the sake of the

contrary good, is no argument that he doesn't hate evil, as evil: and if so, then it is no reason why he may not reasonably forbid evil as evil, and punish it as such."

3. God Has Good Purposes in the Exercise of His Providence Over Evil

a. P _____

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

b. A _____

Isaiah 10:5-7

c. Pharoah

Exodus 4:21

Exodus 7:3

Exodus 8:15

Exodus 8:32

Exodus 9:34

Romans 9:17

d. J _____

Genesis 37:4-5

Genesis 37:8

Genesis 37:11

Genesis 37:20

Genesis 37:24

Genesis 37:28

Genesis 45:5

Genesis 50:20

e. All B _____

Romans 8:28

f. The C _____

Acts 2:23

Acts 4:27-28

Application